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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/795,785 | 03/08/2004 | Sheldon Holson | 128-001 | 4087 |
| 26542 | 7590 | 05/03/2005 | EXAMINER | |
| JAMES MARC LEAS 37 BUTLER DRIVE S. BURLINGTON, VT 05403 | | | FIDEI, DAVID | |
| | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | 3728 | |

DATE MAILED: 05/03/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

SP

| | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 10/795,785 | HOLSON | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | David T. Fidei | 3728 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 March 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-37 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 29-37 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 and 25-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 20-24 and 28 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 08 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>3/8/04</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Election/Restrictions

1. Claims 29-37 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on March 29, 2005.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-6, 17-19, 25, 26 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Herbst (Patent no 5,494,161). A filing system is disclosed comprising a hanging file folder 130 that presumably has open sides for holding files, loose papers or the like, see col. 1, lines 12-14. The file folder has hangers 132 on each side as shown in figure 2. Typically, the folders of such as size to accommodate materials having a width of legal or letter sized paper, see col. 3, line 32. This taken to imply 8½ x 11 or 8½ x 14 inch dimensions where the folder conventionally has the longer size dimension to store the papers on their side. The difference between the claimed subject matter and Herbst is the dimension of the hanger separation length is less than 11 inches, claim 1. One would expect the hanger length of Herbst to be at greater than 11 inches to accommodate the legal or letter sized paper.

However, Herbst also states in col. 3, line 21 box receiving the may have “any desirable length or width suitable for receiving hanging folders” where it is also presumed the folders may have varying width or length. It would have been an obvious matter of design choice to construct the hanger separation length less than 11 inches, since such a modification would have involved a mere change in the size of a component. A change in size is generally recognized as being within the level of ordinary skill in the art. In re Rose, 105 USPQ 237 (CCPA 1955). Also, it has

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been held that where the only difference between the prior art device and the claimed device was a recitation of relative dimensions, the claimed device was not patentably distinct from the prior art device, *Gardner v. TED Systems, Inc.*, 725 F.2d 1338, 220 USPQ 777 (Fed. Cir. 1984), cert. Denied, 469 U.S. 830, 2325 USPQ 232 (1984), see M.P.E.P. 2144.04 (IV).

As to claims 2-6, 25, 26 and 27 to construct the hanger separation distance 1½ inches to 8 inches, or any range therein, would have been obvious for the aforementioned reason in that one skilled in the art would have found it obvious to make the folder of any size desired.

As to claim 17, the file folder further comprises an identifying tab or label, see col. 3, lines 26-28.

As to claim 18, a box 10 is disclosed for hanging a plurality of file folders.

As to claim 19, a pair of parallel rails 120 are disclosed for supporting the hangers.

4. Claims 7- 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Herbst as applied to the claims above, and further in view of Struhl (Patent no. 5,275,438). The difference between the claimed subject matter and Herbst is the filing system further comprising a protective envelope and a small planar object.

Struhl teaches it is well known in the filing art to provide hanging file folders with a protective envelope 18 in order to provide magnetically stored information along with the file folder. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the folder Herbst by providing protective envelope and a small planar object, wherein the envelope is for handling the small planar object within the hanging file folder as taught by Struhl, so that electronically or digitally stored information is also available with the file folder.

As to claims 8-10, as with the dimensions of the folder, the dimensions of the envelope would have also been obvious for reasons outlined in paragraph 3 above.

As to claims 11 and 12, the language drawn to what the file folder or envelope is “for” does not patentably distinguish the subject matter thereover.

As to claim 13, a transparent portion of the envelope is disclosed by Struhl, see col. 3, lines 56-57 and col. 4, lines 19-20.

As to claims 14-16 a memory storage device 40 is a magnetic storage disk and the file folder further comprises a printed insert 16. The particular information provided thereon, such as that corresponding to the memory device storage device relates to printed matter and is of no patentable significance.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 20-24 and 28 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

REPLY BY APPLICANT OR PATENT OWNER TO THIS OFFICE ACTION

6. “In order to be entitled to reconsideration or further examination, the applicant or patent owner must reply to every ground of objection and rejection in this Office action. The reply must present arguments pointing out the specific distinctions believed to render the claims, including any newly presented claims, patentable over any applied references. The applicant’s or patent owner’s reply must appear throughout to be a bona fide attempt to advance the application or the reexamination proceeding to final action. A general allegation that the claims define a patentable invention without specifically pointing out how the language of the claims patentably distinguishes them from the references does not comply with the requirements of this section. The reply must be reduced to writing (emphasis added)”, see 37 CFR 1.111 (b) & (c), M.P.E.P. 714.02.

Pointing out specific distinctions means clearly indicating in the written response what features/elements or distinctions have been added to the claim/claims, where support is found in the specification for such recitations and how these features are not shown, taught, obvious or inherent in the prior art.

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If no amendments are made to claims as applicant or patent owner believes the claims are patentable without further modification, the reply must distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the examiner's action and must respond to every ground of objection and rejection in the prior Office Action in the same vain as given above, 37 CFR 1.111 (b) & (c), M.P.E.P. 714.02.

The examiner also points out, due to the change in practice as affecting final rejections, older decisions on questions of prematureness of final rejection or admission of subsequent amendments do not necessarily reflect present practice. "Under present practice, second or any subsequent actions on the merits shall be final, except where the examiner introduces a new ground of rejection that is neither necessitated by applicant's amendment of the claims nor based on information submitted in an information disclosure statement filed during the period set forth in 37 CFR 1.97(c)" (emphasis mine), see MPEP 706.07(a).

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David T. Fidei whose telephone number is (571) 272-4553. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mickey Yu can be reached on (571) 272-4562.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David T. Fidei', written in a cursive style.

David T. Fidei
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3728

dtf
April 30, 2005